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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS et al

Serial No. 09/686,964

Filed: October 12, 2000

For: IMPROVED IMMUNODIAGNOSTIC ASSAYS USING  
REDUCING AGENTS



Atty. Ref.: 2752-24

Group: 1648

Examiner: Hill

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

July 2, 2002

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

1. **PTO-1449 Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(b)**  
[within 3 months of filing or prior to 1st Office Action on the merits]  
N/C
- 2.(a) **Statement Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c)**  
[before Final Office Action or Allowance (requires Rule 97(e)  
Statement or Rule 17(p) fee)]  
N/C
- 2.(b) **Fee Payment Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(c)**  
[before Final Office Action or Allowance (requires Rule 97(e)  
Statement or Rule 17(p) fee)]  
\$180.00
3. **Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(d)**  
[after Final Office Action or Allowance (requires Rule 97(e)  
Statement and Rule 17(p) fee), but before final fee payment]  
\$180.00

The following are submitted in the above-identified application in compliance with  
37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98:

4. A list of documents on Form PTO-1449 together with copies of each identified document and a translation or a concise explanation of each non-English language document (such as a Search Report) is

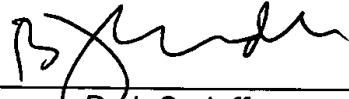
enclosed herewith.

This paper is submitted in accordance with:

- 5. 37 CFR 1.97(b): [within 3 months of filing or prior to 1st Office Action]
- 6. 37 CFR 1.97(c): [before Final Office Action or Allowance, whichever is earlier]; and
  - a) The required Statement made in item 9 below; or
  - b) The \$180.00 fee specified in 37 CFR §1.17(p) for submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is authorized in item 10 below.
- 7. 37 CFR §1.97(d): [after Final Office Action or Allowance (requires Rule 97(e) Statement and Rule 17(p) fee), but before final fee payment]; and
  - a) The fee (\$180.00) required by 37 CFR §1.17(p) is submitted herewith; and
  - b) The required Statement is stated in item 8 below.
- 8. Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)
  - a) The undersigned attorney of record hereby certifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (each item contained in this IDS was the first citation of that item by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application which occurred no more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS); or
  - b) No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this Statement, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- 9. Please charge all deficiency fees associated with the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement and any other fees applicable to this application to Deposit Account No. 14-1140. An original and one (1) copy of this document are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,  
NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



B. J. Sadoff

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